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ABSTRACT

This booklet, prepared in conjunction with adult students from the non-traditional student association at Jackson Community College, Jackson, Michigan, provides information on college for adult students who are considering entering or reentering school. In six short sections, the guide covers the following topics: career goals and counseling, academic planning, the academic environment, paying the bill, support systems, and placement after graduation. Information on college costs and financial aid is also outlined. Appended to the booklet are admissions office phone numbers for Michigan degree-granting colleges and universities. (KC)

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PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER... BECOMING AN ADULT STUDENT.

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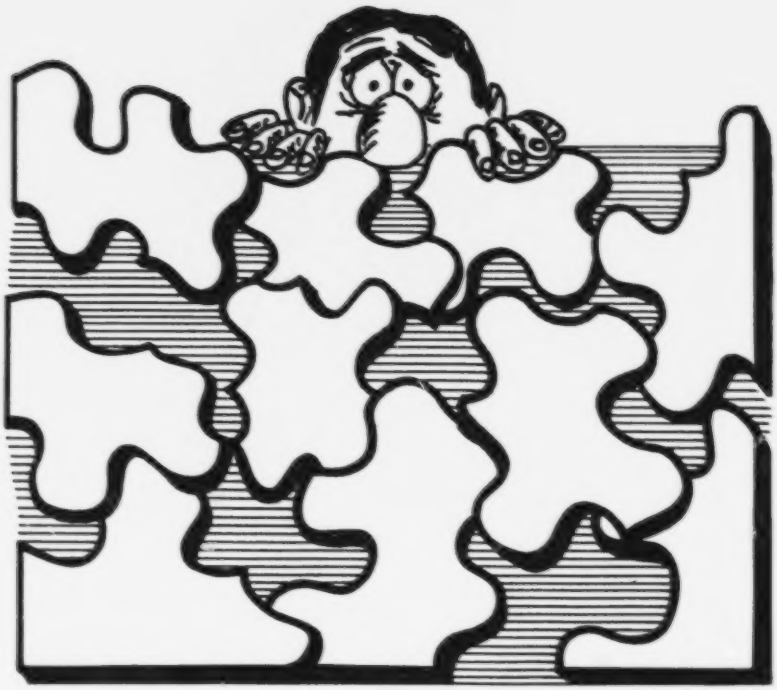


EVER FEEL OVERWHELMED?

ARE YOU

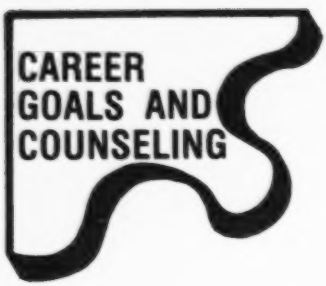
- in a dead end job?
- looking for advancement in your present job?
- in an "empty nest"?
- unhappy with your life?
- looking for a change?
- a single parent?
- willing to learn and grow?
- eager to meet new people?
- a displaced homemaker?
- considering a new way of life?

If you have checked any of these, you should consider becoming an adult student.

With all these questions and decisions to be made, wouldn't it be wise to consider discussing concerns with a counselor to help you plan your back-to-school adventure?

EDUCATION CAN GET YOU OUT FROM UNDER!

1. CAREER GOALS AND COUNSELING



Making an appointment with a college counselor is a good place to start. Counselors are knowledgeable about institutional resources and can help you collect information and make good campus contacts. Testing for interest and aptitude is available to help you with making a career choice. Previous employment and/or academic experience certainly counts and may speed you to a degree. Now is the time to see that counselor, even if you have made a career decision. A counselor can help you plan your study adventure. Having made a decision, now is the time to complete an admissions application for the college of your choice—contact numbers are located at the back of this booklet.

2. ACADEMIC PLANNING

Ever take a trip without a road map?

A "plan of study" will serve as a guide to successful completion of your degree. School catalogs, generally found in admissions, counseling, or career resource areas, contain lists of required and elective couses. Review these, then see a counselor or academic advisor and plan a course of study. You should meet with your academic advisor once each semester or term, and certainly no less than once each academic year to make certain you are "on the right road."

3. THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Developing good study skills is important to your success in college. Most colleges provide student services in tutoring as well as courses in reading and writing to help you review or develop the skills necessary to be successful in your new academic life. The instructors in these areas know your concerns and are especially trained to help you. If you feel overwhelmed, don't be afraid to ask for help.

4. PAYING THE BILL

Methods of paying vary from school to school. Definition of early and late registrations, late charges and related lab and materials fees can always be found in school catalogs or registration guides. Look carefully for this information and be certain to ask questions so you will not be caught unaware.

The office of the college registrar, the cashier of the business office staff, or the financial aid office can always supply information about payment needed.

Specialized plans to assist students may include deferred payment plans or tuition assistance programs. Low-cost insurance is often available for the student and dependents.

If you qualify for financial aid, you may find that some, part, or all of your tuition will be paid from a variety of financial aid options. If the money must be repaid, be certain you understand the amounts owed and exactly when they are due.

5. SUPPORT SYSTEMS

It is reassuring to know that most colleges provide a variety of support services to make your transition from home or work into the academic community easier.

Day care services in or around campus can often be found for your children.

Ethnic organizations or clubs as well as peer support groups sprout all over college campuses. Special student service groups have been established to address the needs presented by non-traditional students enrolled on a full- or part-time basis.

Colleges provide resource centers, orientation classes, library facilities, parking, and cafeteria services.

6. PLACEMENT AFTER GRADUATION

Most adult learners are wise and cautious and have already taken a careful look at potential placement opportunities before they even enroll.

Most likely you are returning to school because you already know what skills and academic credentials are required for your chosen occupation. But making a contact, and keeping in touch, with the college placement office can enhance the opportunities you might have at graduation time.

OR PLACEMENT AFTER GRADUATION

COSTS TO CONSIDER . . .

Tuition, Books and Supplies.

Costs will include tuition, books, and supplies. Expenses will vary according to your school and academic major.

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Room and Board. Transportation.

These expenses will depend on your choice of an on-campus or commuter college. Information about on- and off-campus housing will be available in the college housing office.

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Child Care.

Non-traditional students are frequently single parents and will have to make special arrangements for pre-school youngsters. It is wise to keep in mind class hours as well as study time which might be needed.

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The Bottom Line **TOTAL** $.

General information about financial aid can be obtained from college guidance counselors, financial aid officers, or admissions officers in colleges.

At the college you can find out –

(1) what is available
(2) when to apply
(3) where to file your application

A few colleges require specialized application forms but most often you have to fill out one of the following:

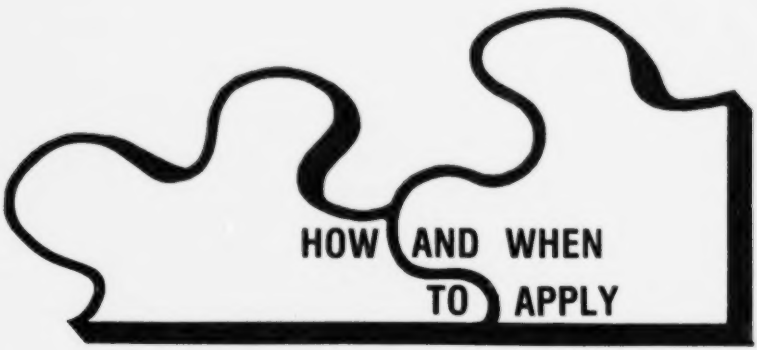
Financial Aid Form (College Scholarship Service)

OR

Family Financial Statement (American College Testing Company)

While your decision to return to college can be made any time, there is generally a "best time" to apply for financial assistance. That time is January through early March!

Remember, there are really two applications to complete for college: application for admission (from the Admissions Office), and application for financial aid (from the Financial Aid Office) if cost is a concern. Financial Aid decisions are usually not made for students who have not yet been admitted to a college.

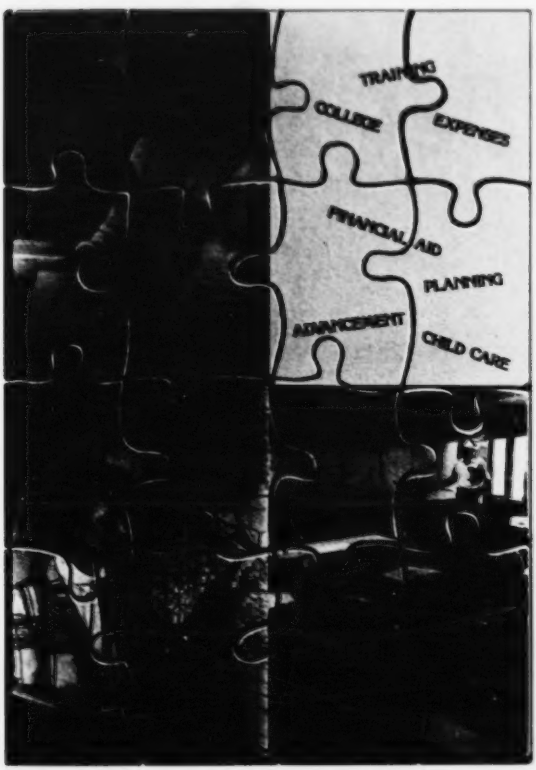


And frankly, that's about all there is to getting started.

Won't you respond to our invitation? Call that college and say, "I'm an adult, and I want to come to college."

And remember,

Opportunity remains. The best book hasn't been written; the best race has yet to be run!



Admissions office phone numbers for Michigan degree granting colleges and universities.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC JUNIOR & COMMUNITY COLLEGES

1. Alpena Community College ..... (517) 356-9021 ext. 200
2. Bay de Noc Community College ..... (906) 786-5802 ext. 182
3. Charles Stewart Mott Community College ..... (313) 762-0241
4. Delta College ..... (517) 686-9094
5. Glen Oaks Community College ..... (616) 467-9945 ext. 241
6. Gogebic Community College ..... (906) 932-4231
7. Grand Rapids Junior College ..... (616) 456-4884
8. Henry Ford Community College ..... (313) 845-9613
9. Highland Park Community College ..... (313) 252-0475 ext. 283
10. Jackson Community College ..... (517) 787-0800 ext. 131
11. Kalamazoo Valley Community College ..... (616) 372-5346
12. Kellogg Community College ..... (616) 965-3931
13. Kirtland Community College ..... (517) 275-5121 ext. 260
14. Lake Michigan College ..... (616) 927-3571 ext. 262
15. Lansing Community College ..... (517) 483-1252
16. Macomb Community College ..... (313) 286-2216
17. Mid-Michigan Community College ..... (517) 386-7792
18. Monroe County Community College ..... (313) 242-7300
19. Montcalm Community College ..... (517) 328-2111 ext. 276
20. Muskegon Community College ..... (616) 777-0366
21. North Central Michigan College ..... (616) 347-3973 ext. 2115
22. Northwestern Michigan College ..... (616) 922-1034
23. Oakland Community College ..... (313) 540-1549
24. Schoolcraft College ..... (313) 591-6400
25. Southwestern Michigan College ..... (616) 782-5113 ext. 310
26. St. Clair County Community College ..... (313) 984-3881 ext. 236
27. Washtenaw Community College ..... (313) 973-3542
28. Wayne County Community College ..... (313) 496-2655
29. West Shore Community College ..... (616) 845-6211

MICHIGAN PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

1. Central Michigan University ..... (517) 774-3076
2. Eastern Michigan University ..... (313) 487-3060
3. Ferris State College ..... (616) 796-0461 ext. 4600
4. Grand Valley State Colleges 1-800-632-1174
5. Lake Superior State College ..... 1-800-682-4800 ext. 231
6. Michigan State University ..... (517) 355-8332
7. Michigan Technological University ..... (906) 487-2335
8. Northern Michigan University ..... (906) 227-2650
9. Oakland University ..... (313) 370-3364
10. Saginaw Valley State College ..... (517) 790-4200
11. University of Michigan – Ann Arbor ..... (313) 764-7433
12. University of Michigan – Dearborn ..... (313) 593-5170
13. University of Michigan – Flint ..... (313) 762-3300
14. Wayne State University ..... (313) 577-3577
15. Western Michigan University 1-800-342-5968

MICHIGAN INDEPENDENT TWO-YEAR & FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

1. Adrian College ..... (517) 265-5161 ext. 326
2. Albion College ..... (517) 629-5511 ext. 321
3. Alma College 1-800-292-9078
4. Andrews University ..... (616) 471-3203
5. Aquinas College 1-800-541-5410
6. Baker College ..... (313) 744-4040
7. Calvin College and Theological Seminary ..... (616) 957-6106
8. Center for Humanistic Studies ..... (313) 875-7441
9. Cleary College ..... (313) 483-4400
10. College of Art and Design – C.C.S. ..... (313) 872-3118
11. Concordia College ..... (313) 995-7300
12. Cranbrook Academy of Art ..... (313) 645-3303
13. Davenport College of Business – Grand Rapids 1-800-632-9569
14. Davenport College of Business – Kalamazoo (616) 382-2835
15. Davenport College of Business – Lansing ..... (517) 484-2600
16. D'etre University ..... (313) 882-5522
17. Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary ..... (313) 381-0111
18. Detroit College of Business – Dearborn ..... (313) 582-6983
19. Detroit College of Business – Flint ..... (313) 239-1443
20. Detroit College of Law ..... (313) 965-0246
21. Ecumenical Theological Center ..... (313) 862-8000 ext. 430
22. GMI – Engineering & Management Institute ..... (313) 762-7865
23. Grace Bible College ..... (616) 538-2330
24. Grand Rapids Baptist College 1-800-354-0271
25. Great Lakes Bible College ..... (517) 321-0242 ext. 24
26. Great Lakes Junior College of Business ..... (517) 755-3444
27. Hillsdale College ..... (517) 437-7341
28. Hope College ..... (616) 392-5111 ext. 2200
29. Jordan College – Berrien County ..... (616) 927-3333
30. Jordan College – Detroit ..... (313) 835-5100
31. Jordan College – Energy Institute ..... (616) 784-7995
32. Jordan College – Flint ..... (313) 789-0520
33. Jordan College – Grand Rapids ..... (616) 957-9999
34. Jordan College – Newaygo County ..... (616) 924-5480
35. Jordan College – Thumb Area ..... (517) 269-9746
36. Kalamazoo College 1-800-632-5757
37. Kendall School of Design ..... (616) 451-9348
38. Lawrence Institute of Technology ..... (313) 356-0200
39. Lewis College of Business ..... (313) 862-6300 ext. 34
40. Madonna College ..... (313) 591-9052
41. Marygrove College ..... (313) 862-8000
42. Mercy College of Detroit ..... (313) 592-6030
43. Michigan Christian College ..... (313) 651-5800
44. Midrasha College of Jewish Studies ..... (313) 352-7117
45. Muskegon Business College ..... (616) 726-4904
46. Nazareth College ..... 1-800-792-4305 ext. 211
47. Northwood Institute 1-800-682-6060
48. Olivet College ..... (616) 749-7635
49. Reformed Bible College ..... (616) 458-0404
50. Sacred Heart Seminary College ..... (313) 868-2700
51. Saint John's Provincial Seminary ..... (313) 453-6200 ext. 28
52. Saint Mary's College ..... (313) 682-1885
53. Siena Heights College ..... (517) 263-0731 ext. 214
54. Spring Arbor College ..... (517) 750-1200 ext. 396
55. Suomi College ..... (906) 482-5300 ext. 311
56. Thomas Cooley Law School ..... (517) 371-5140 ext. 292
57. University of Detroit ..... (313) 927-1245
58. Walsh College ..... (313) 689-8282
59. Western Theological Seminary ..... (616) 392-8555 ext. 30
60. William Tyndale College ..... (313) 553-7200 ext. 128
61. Yeshiva Gedolah Rabbinical College ..... (313) 968-3360

THIS BOOKLET WAS PREPARED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ADULT STUDENTS FROM THE NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION AT JACKSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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CHECKLIST

____ Review Career Goals – 6-8 months ahead

____ Applying for Admission and Financial Aid – 1-6 months ahead

____ If you are going to re-locate, check Housing and Day Care Options – 3-6 months ahead

____ Seek Academic Advising and New Student Orientation – 1-3 months ahead

____ Register for classes, buy books/supplies – 1 week to 3 months before classes start

____ Set Alarm for first day of classes!

Individual college time frames will vary.